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September 8, 2009

TO: Each Supervisor

FROM: Marvin J. Southard, D.S.W.
Director of Mental Health

SUBJECT: **ADVANCE NOTIFICATION OF INTENT TO ENTER INTO SOLE
SOURCE CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS WITH PACIFIC CLINICS**

This memo is to comply with the revised Board Policy 5.100, Sole Source Contract, by notifying the Board of our need to initiate a Sole Source contract. It is the Department of Mental Health's intent to enter into new sole source contract negotiations with the Pacific Clinics Latina Youth Program, located at 11721-A Telegraph Road, Santa Fe Springs, California 90670.

Department of Mental Health (DMH) was awarded funding from the State Department of Mental Health (SDMH) to support the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA), Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI), Early Start Project for Suicide Prevention, including the "Latina Youth Program." The Early Start Programs funded by the MHSA PEI plan were originally to be directly administered and contracted by SDMH. However, the State determined that selected local County Departments of Mental Health would be better able to directly expedite the administration and implementation of the plans. Upon the State's redirection of Early Start Projects, the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health (DMH) began a fast track planning and grant proposal development process that included groups of expert informants and stakeholders. DMH was subsequently awarded funds for various Early Start proposals, including the Suicide Prevention Programs. It was through this process that Pacific Clinics Latina Youth Program was identified as the principal entity with the requisite professional expertise and experience to effectively implement these services as quickly as possible. The Contract/Agreement will begin during Fiscal Year (FY) 2009-2010 and is intended to be ongoing over a three year period, contingent upon the availability of annual MHSA funding to support this project. The total allocation for this project is \$281,250 prorated for FY 2009-2010, and \$375,000 for FY 2010-2011 and FY 2011-2012, respectively.

The Latina Youth Program began as a pilot project with a grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), targeting a very specific population, i.e., Latina teenagers. This program has since received a SAMHSA Public Health Demonstration Award for their work with Latino families. Pacific Clinics was selected as the sole source entity for implementation of this program because it is uniquely qualified to provide the services through the Latina Youth Program.

The sole source agreement with Pacific Clinics will enable them to expand the services of the Latina Youth Program under the MHSA PEI Early Start Program to strengthen and build upon existing community resources and to develop evidence based practices relevant to the Latino community.

California data on suicide attempts in 2006 show that the highest rate of attempts occurs among the 15 to 19 year old age group. Los Angeles County data from 2003 shows that among the 16 to 25 year old age group, the greatest rate of suicide is in Service Area 7. The Latina Youth Program is located in Santa Fe Springs, Service Area 7, and serves Latina youth in the surrounding communities. This program has a record of successfully outreaching to the Latino community by providing services in a culturally and linguistically appropriate manner. In addition to the use of evidence based practices, the Latina Youth Program will expand services to Latino youth and their families in natural environments to increase the success of serving the unserved and underserved in the community.

The expansion of suicide prevention services at Pacific Clinics Latina Youth Program, and the use of the Columbia Teen Screen (an evidence based practice), will create the much needed augmentation of critical prevention and early intervention services. It will also gather data regarding the use of existing evidence based practices with urban Latino families. With funding now available from MHSA PEI Early Start Program, the Department is implementing the expansion of the Pacific Clinics Latina Youth Program. It will bring evidence based suicide prevention practices to the Latino population in Southeast Los Angeles County.

Unless otherwise instructed by any board office, DMH intends to proceed with negotiating the sole source contract within two weeks. DMH will work closely with both the Office of the County Counsel and the Chief Executive Officer in preparing an Agreement with Pacific Clinics.

MJS:OC:AL:rg

c: Chief Executive Officer
Acting County Counsel